

**COMMISSIONERS OF RIDGELY
TOWN MEETING
June 3, 2013**

The June 2013 meeting of the Commissioners of Ridgely was held on the above date in the Ridgely House at 7:00pm. The following were in attendance: President Anthony Casey, Commissioner John Hurley, Commissioner John Buckle, Clerk-Treasurer Stephanie Berkey, Director of Public Works David Crist, Chief of Police Gary Manos, Assistant Clerk-Treasurer Melissa Leonard, Sgt. Stephen Creason, Corporal Stewart Ewing, Officer Keith Collison, Financial Assistant Gerald Sutton, Pastor Denzel Cheek, Joe Anderson, Robin Martin, Chief Jeff Jackson Greensboro Police, Cathy Schwab, Rick Schwab, Dustin Holt Times Record and Michelle Friday.

The Invocation was led by Pastor Denzel Cheek of the Ridgely Church of the Bretheren. President Casey opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence honoring our troops.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2013 meeting, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

STAFF REPORTS

CLERK-TREASURER

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve the bills, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, approved.

Total General Funds Reconciled \$393,709.36, Total Sewer Funds Reconciled \$353,563.35, Total Water Funds Reconciled \$102,020.84.

The proposals for the Maryland Avenue loan were submitted. PNC Bank can do the loan for 1.75% for 5 years. President Casey made a motion to finance the Maryland Avenue project with PNC Bank and opt for the monthly payment schedule, 2nd Commissioner Hurley all in favor. The proposal from PNC Bank for refinancing the state retirement pension loan was reviewed. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to refinance the loan with PNC Bank, 2nd Commissioner Buckle all in favor approved.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Director of Public Works David Crist submitted his report to the Commissioners. MES is increasing their rates and the rates for brush are going to double. There was a discussion about how to handle this increase and if we should be charging for brush pick up as it is going from \$18 a ton to \$30 a ton. The Commissioners would like to meet with MES and see if there is anything that can be done and to do some research to see if we could begin burning the brush again.

We are unable to enter into an agreement with Enernoc due to the solar panels at the wastewater treatment plant.

VW Energy has reviewed our Choptank Electric statements and they believe that Choptank is not paying us back the right amount for left over energy. We will be sitting down with Choptank and VW Energy in the near future to get this situation resolved.

The new Neptune radio read water meters are going to begin being installed June 10, 2013. The antenna and the server are already installed and all meters have been delivered. President Casey commented that this is a project that while it costs \$250,000, it will ultimately save the town 40-50K a year and will benefit the residents as a sort of “insurance policy” against leaks. The town is very pleased to start this project.

The fence and parking lot of the tennis courts are complete. Through parks and recreation we are committed to \$3,000 for the tennis court project. These costs can be “in kind” and we have reached that amount.

The contract for Maryland Avenue with Bramble has been signed and sent back. The start date will be in mid-July. Maryland Avenue will have to be closed for about a week and letters will need to be sent.

The FEMA generator grant is on schedule and should be completed in the next few weeks. We are going to submit another grant application for a generator for the town hall.

The skate park has been reopened.

Cathy Schwab spoke with David regarding moving the caboos closer to the train station and thanked Public Works for all they did to get the parks to look so nice for all the recent events in town.

CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Gary Manos presented his report to the Commissioners.

Officer Keith Collinson was sworn in as our newest police officer.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Gerald Sutton reported that there is only one month left in the fiscal year 2013. Everything is still looking good. The preliminary audit will be in July.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Schwab discussed the Plein Air event in the park. It was a good turnout for the first time for the event. The winners’ paintings will be on display later this year in the town hall.

The roof of the train station was not installed properly and the original contractor is no longer in business. We have received a quote from Bob Breeding General Contractor to repair the roof at a cost of \$1,200. The Commissioners discussed that we have saved so much money by having Rick & Cathy Schwab doing the labor inside of the station that we could afford to properly fix the roof. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to repair the roof, 2nd Commissioner Buckle, unanimous approval.

OLD BUSINESS

President Casey read Ordinance No. 2013-360 which was introduced at the May 2013 meeting. Commissioner Hurley made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2013-360 An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds and Estimate Income In Accordance With the Budget Adopted for Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014. 2nd Commissioner Buckle all in favor. The budget ordinance was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hutchison has requested that he not be charged for trash pick up at his rental property as they use the dumpster at the store. The Commissioners discussed that trash pick-up is charged to us on a per house basis, not by pick-up and declined his request. A letter will be sent.

Joe Anderson of CTS gave a presentation about his company. They are currently located in the Ridgely Industrial Park and are looking to expand to the Ridgely Technology Park. Hopefully in the next 3 years it will provide 20-25 jobs to the area. President Casey asked if there was anything the town could do to help and assured him that he has Ridgely's support.

The Benedictine School is looking for assistance applying for a grant. No one was present from the Benedictine to discuss the grant. The Commissioners would like more information before making a decision.

Shore Scan presented a proposal to the town to provide equipment for scanning and offsite storage for scanned documents. The project would require the office staff to scan the documents over time. There was a discussion of hiring an intern to help with the project. Commissioner Buckle made a motion to accept the proposal from Shore Scan, 2nd Commissioner Hurley, all in favor, approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Casey welcomed back Dustin Holt the reporter from the Times Record.

Cathy Schwab asked about the Verizon Tower. They are still in the process of installing the tower, but they are currently working on it.

Michelle Friday of 205 Elm Court would like to purchase the piece of property next to her lot owned by the town. There was a discussion that there is a right of way that exists there. The paper alley could not be sold. We are going to look into it and contact our attorney to see if this is an option.

Commissioner Hurley made a motion to adjourn, 2nd Commissioner Buckle. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie L. Berkey
Clerk-Treasurer